

**JOURNAL**

OF THE

**PROCEEDINGS**

OF THE

**TENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

OF THE

**PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH,**

IN

**THE STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA,**

HOLDEN IN

**ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, HILLSBOROUGH,**

*On Thursday May 18th, Friday May 19th, Saturday May 20th,  
and Monday May 22d,*

**1826.**

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**HILLSBOROUGH:**

**PRINTED BY DENNIS HEARTT,**

**1826.**



# LIST OF MEMBERS PRESENT.

## CLERGY.

- Rt. Rev. JOHN S. RAVENSCROFT, D. D. ex officio President of the Convention.  
 Rev. JOHN AVERY, St. Paul's Church, Edenton.  
 Rev. C. C. BRAINERD, Emmanuel Church, Warrenton, and St. John's Church, Williamsborough.  
 Rev. ADAM EMPIE, St. James' Church, Wilmington.  
 Rev. WM. M. GREEN, St. Matthew's, Hillsborough, and St. Mary's, Orange county.  
 Rev. R. S. MASON, Christ's Church, Newbern.  
 Rev. H. M. MASON, St. John's Church, Fayetteville.  
 Rev. JOSEPH PIERSON, St. Peter's Church, Washington, Zion Church, and St. Thomas', Beaufort county.  
 Rev. THOMAS WRIGHT, St. Luke's Church, Salisbury, and Christ Church, Rowan county.

The Rev. R. J. Miller, the Rev. E. Brainerd, and the Rev. Philip B. Wiley, clerical members of this Convention, were not present at its sessions.

## LAITY.

- |                                                            |   |                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Gavin Hogg,</i>                                         | } | Christ's Church, Raleigh.           |
| <i>G. E. Badger.</i>                                       |   |                                     |
| <i>Wm. H. Haywood, jr.</i>                                 |   |                                     |
| <i>James S. Green,</i>                                     | } | St. James' Church, Wilmington.      |
| <i>Wm. B. Lord.</i>                                        |   |                                     |
| <i>Maurice Waddell,</i>                                    |   |                                     |
| <i>Francis Hawks,</i> Christ's Church, Newbern.            |   |                                     |
| <i>Jeremiah Lippett,</i>                                   | } | St. John's Church, Fayetteville.    |
| <i>Charles T. Haigh,</i>                                   |   |                                     |
| <i>John W. Wright,</i>                                     |   |                                     |
| <i>T. N. Cameron,</i>                                      |   |                                     |
| <i>John Anderson,</i> Emmanuel Church, Warrenton.          |   |                                     |
| <i>Samuel Fleming,</i> Christ's Church, Rowan county.      |   |                                     |
| <i>William Norwood,</i>                                    | } | St. Matthew's Church, Hillsborough. |
| <i>Thomas Ruffin,</i>                                      |   |                                     |
| <i>James S. Smith,</i>                                     |   |                                     |
| <i>Francis L. Hawks.</i>                                   |   |                                     |
| <i>Duncan Cameron.</i>                                     | } | St. Mary's Chapel, Orange county.   |
| <i>Walker Anderson.</i>                                    |   |                                     |
| <i>Thomas Davis,</i> St. Jude's Church, Orange county.     |   |                                     |
| <i>John C. Taylor,</i> St. John's Church, Williamsborough. |   |                                     |



# JOURNAL.

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Hillsborough, Thursday, May 18, 1826,  
10 o'clock, A. M.

**THIS** being the day appointed for the meeting of the Convention, the members thereof assembled in the Church, for the purpose of organizing, the Rt. Rev. John S. Ravenscroft, D. D. acting as president, and the Rev. R. S. Mason as secretary pro tempore.

The list of the clergy being called over, the following were found to be present:

Rev. John Avery, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Edenton.

Rev. Wm. M. Green, Rector of St. Matthew's Church, Hillsborough.

Rev. R. S. Mason, Rector of Christ Church, Newbern.

Rev. Adam Empie, Rector of St. James' Church, Wilmington.

Rev. Henry M. Mason, Rector of St. John's Church, Fayetteville.

Rev. Thomas Wright, Rector of St. Luke's Church, Salisbury.

Rev. Joseph Pierson, Rector of St. Peter's Church, Washington.

Rev. C. C. Brainerd, Rector of Emmanuel Church, Warrenton.

The certificates of lay delegation were then presented, and the following persons admitted as members of the convention:

Gavin Hogg, Christ Church, Raleigh.

T. N. Cameron, }  
C. T. Haigh, } St. John's Church, Fayetteville.

James S. Green, }  
Wm. C. Lord, } St. James' Church, Wilmington.

John Anderson, Emmanuel Church, Warrenton.

Thomas Ruffin, St. Matthew's Church, Hillsborough.

Walker Anderson, St. Mary's Church, Orange county.

The Convention then proceeded to ballot for a secretary, and the Rev. R. S. Mason was chosen.

On motion, *Resolved*. That an assistant secretary be elected, to aid in the speedy publication of the Journal; and Walker Anderson was then duly elected.

The Convention being thus organized, adjourned to attend divine service.

Morning prayer was performed by the Rev. Henry M. Mason, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Adam Empie, from Col. iv. 17. After service, the Convention assembled for business.

Mr. Jeremiah Lippitt, a delegate from St. John's Church, Fayetteville, appeared and took his seat.

A certificate of delegation from Christ Church, Rowan county, was presented, and Samuel Fleming, a lay delegate from said Church, admitted to a seat in the Convention.

The Episcopal Journal was then read by the Rt. Rev. President, and is here presented.

## EPISCOPAL JOURNAL.

With renewed and increased cause of thankfulness to the great Head of the Church, and Disposer of all events in this world, to the advancement of his pure and undefiled religion, we are again permitted, my clerical and lay brethren, to unite our counsels and our efforts to promote the same glorious and gracious purpose. And as the divine mercy is pleased to continue thus favourable to us, I trust it will prove an additional ground of increased exertion on our part, to give ourselves heartily to the fulfilment of those duties, which are intrusted to the representatives of the Church, by the various congregations in this diocese. And this body, to which is committed such high and holy interests, will enter upon them, I doubt not, with such a reverend impression of their importance, such a deep sense of their personal responsibility, and such a firm dependence on divine direction, as shall ensure a happy and profitable issue to its labours, in the continuance of the divine blessing upon the exertions put forth for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, in this portion of the Lord's vineyard.

Full of this hope, my reverend and lay brethren, I now proceed to lay before you the state of the Church in this diocese, as presented to my observation, in my visits to the different congregations of which it is composed, during the past conventional year.

The intended course of my episcopal visits for the previous year, having been interrupted by sickness, as mentioned in my address to the last Convention, my first object, after the adjournment of the Convention which met in Washington, was to supply this deficiency. On the 26th April, accordingly I left Washington for Edenton, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Avery, and the Rev. Mr. Pier-son. In passing through the town of Plymouth, the application of some of the inhabitants of the place, was complied with, and divine service was performed, and a sermon preached in the courthouse, by candle light, to a respectable and attentive congregation.

On the next day, opportunity was taken to pay a visit to Mrs. Pettigrew, the aged widow of the Rev. Mr. Pettigrew, formerly Bishop elect of this diocese. To this I was prompted, as well by

my own feelings, as by the respect conceived to be due from the diocese at large, to the relict of one who was thought worthy to preside over the interests of this branch of the Church of Christ, and which I felt perfectly sure it would be pleased to manifest through its present representative. To this venerable lady, the attention thus shown was most grateful, and none the less so from being altogether unlooked for, while to myself it was more than gratifying; because, to the satisfaction arising from the performance of what is believed to be a duty, was added the assurance, that the Church has yet many friends remaining in that immediate neighbourhood, who want only the opportunity to return again to those services in which they were raised, but of which they have long been deprived. They have a neat little Church, in perfect repair, built by Mr. Pettigrew, in which the Methodists occasionally officiate, and on whose ministrations the members of the Church are compelled by necessity to attend. On the next day I took leave of Mrs. Pettigrew, and arrived in Edenton in the afternoon.

On the 29th, divine service was performed in the afternoon in St. Paul's Church, Edenton, by the Rev. Mr. Pierson, and a sermon preached by myself. On the 30th, the usual services were performed in the forenoon, after which I preached and confirmed five persons. Sunday, May the 1st, morning prayer was read by the Rev. Mr. Pierson, after which I preached and administered the holy communion. In the afternoon the usual services, with a sermon by myself, were afforded to the congregation, which was both numerous and attentive.

On the 2d May, I left Edenton for Elizabeth City, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Avery, and the Rev. Mr. Pierson. On the 3d, divine service was performed in the court-house in the forenoon, after which I confirmed nine persons, preached and administered the communion to ten communicants. In the evening the service was repeated, with a sermon by myself. On the 4th, returned to Edenton, and on the way performed divine service, and preached to a small congregation in Hertford.

May the 5th, left Edenton in company with the Rev. Mr. Pierson, for Bath.

May 8th, divine service was performed in the forenoon, at Bath, by the Rev. Mr. Pierson, after which I administered the rite of confirmation to twenty-six persons, preached a sermon and administered the holy communion. During the whole of the services, I was much gratified with the orderly deportment of a large congregation, and with the devout and deep interest manifested by the members of the Church in all that pertains to her order and worship.

On the next day, the 9th, proceeded to Zion Chapel. Fourteen persons were confirmed, and a sermon preached by myself to a large and attentive congregation. In the evening went on to Washington.

May 10th, in St. Peter's Church, Washington, morning prayer was read by the Rev. Mr. Pierson. Five persons were confirmed, and a sermon preached by myself. In the evening service was again performed by Mr. Pierson, and a sermon preached by myself.

May 11th, proceeded to Trinity Chapel, where, after divine service, I confirmed twelve persons, preached, and administered the holy communion. In the evening returned to Washington.

May 12th, left Washington for Raleigh, by way of Greenville and Tarborough, at both of which places appointments had been made. In the evening of the 12th, preached in Greenville to a small congregation, composed chiefly of the residents of the village, but few Episcopalians, and those few nearly strangers to their own services from long disuse. There is, however, a spirit abiding with them, which may yet cause this remnant again to take root and flourish, and become mighty, in showing forth the praises of their God and Saviour.

May 13th, proceeded to Tarborough, and on the evening of the 14th, performed divine service, and preached to an attentive collection of people.

Sunday, May 15th, performed divine service, and preached both forenoon and afternoon to a large and attentive congregation. The prospects of the Church in this place, are dark and distant.

May 16th, left Tarborough for Raleigh, where I arrived on the 17th.

May the 30th, having remained with my parishioners in Raleigh two Sundays, I set out once more to visit the congregations in Wilmington and Fayetteville, and arrived in Wilmington on June the 1st.

June 2d, in the evening performed divine service, and preached to an attentive congregation.

June 3d, the intended services for the evening of this day were prevented by a most violent storm of wind and rain.

June 4th, in the evening performed divine service, and preached to a small but engaged congregation; the effects of the storm and the dampness of the night causing many to remain at home.

Sunday, June 5th, morning prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Empie, and a full congregation; after which I confirmed three persons, and administered the holy communion to upwards of eighty communicants.

Sunday evening divine service was performed by myself, and a sermon preached.

June 7th, left Wilmington for Fayetteville, and arrived the same day.

June 9th, evening service was performed by the Rev. H. M. Mason; after which I preached to an attentive audience.

June 10th, evening service by the Rev. Mr. Mason, and a sermon by myself.



June 11th, examined the candidates for confirmation, at the request of Mr. Mason; and after divine service by him in the evening, baptized one adult, confirmed six persons, and preached to a numerous congregation.

Sunday, June 12th, morning prayer was read by the Rev. Mr. H. Mason; after which I preached and administered the holy communion.

In the afternoon, the service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Mason; after which I baptized three infants, and preached.

June 14th, I returned to Raleigh.

As this concludes the tour of duty which ought to have been performed during the previous year, but was interrupted by an attack of sickness, I think it right to notice it, that it may be referred to its proper place, in that estimate of the advancement of the Church which this Convention will feel itself bound to inquire into. In this inquiry it will not escape their notice, of what importance it is to the cause we have in hand, that the Convention should not become stationary, but be transferred from place to place, according as it shall best subserve the general interests of the diocese. Of the propriety of this proceeding there can be no question, and all doubt of its advantage must be done away, by those proofs of the powerful and lasting effects which have been produced in favour of the Church by the meeting of the Convention in Washington last year; effects which are yet operating, and through the zeal and diligence of the clergyman entrusted with that particular charge, will continue to operate and to spread beyond the calculations even of the most sanguine friends of the Church.

On the 17th of August I commenced my course of visits to the different congregations for the present conventional year, and proceeded to Williamsborough, in Granville county; where, being met by the Rev. Mr. Brainerd, the pastor of St. John's Church in that place, divine service was performed on the 20th by him, and a sermon preached by myself.

Sunday, the 21st, morning prayer was offered up by the Rev. Mr. Brainerd, after which I preached and administered the holy communion. In the afternoon the usual service was performed, with a sermon, as in the morning. On both the days the weather was very unfavourable, so that the services were thinly attended. The interests of the Church, however, there is good ground to believe, are improving. Since the Convention which was held there in 1824, the attention of many has been awakened to the subject of religion generally, and to the doctrines of the Church in particular; and notwithstanding the power of prejudice, the influence of a pre-occupied population, and the exertions put forth to withstand it, the truth is gradually prevailing.

My next appointment being in Warrenton on the 27th, I repaired to that place, and aided by the Rev. Mr. Brainerd, who has the

charge also of the Church there, the usual services were performed on Saturday forenoon, and a sermon preached to a small but attentive congregation.

Sunday, 28th, morning prayer was offered up to Almighty God by the Rev. Mr. Brainerd and a large congregation; after which I preached and administered the holy communion. In the afternoon the services were resumed to a yet numerous body of hearers and worshippers, and a sermon preached by myself.

In this place also, there is encouraging evidence of religious improvement, and of increasing interest felt for the advancement of the Church. For a long time the ark was upheld by a few hands, but they were firm and faithful; and though they are yet comparatively but a small number, it hath pleased God to add unto them; and as he hath begun the good work, we have the surest ground to believe that he will carry it on. From Warrenton I returned to Raleigh, and resumed my duties to the Church there.

Having received information from the Rev. Mr. Brainerd that the members and vestry of St. John's Church, Williamsborough, were desirous that it should be regularly consecrated as an Episcopal Church; and having also received the requisite testimonials from the standing committee of this diocese, in favour of Mr. James H. Otey, a candidate for deacon's orders, and of the Rev. C. C. Brainerd, a candidate for priest's orders, I availed myself of the season, when several of the clergymen from the lower country were returning to their respective cures, and appointed the 16th of October for the performance of those sacred duties.

On Saturday, the 15th, accordingly I was met in Williamsborough by the Rev. Mr. Green and the Rev. Mr. Brainerd; and after morning prayer by the Rev. Mr. Green, I confirmed two persons, and preached.

Sunday, October 16th, being the day appointed for the consecration of St. John's Church, Williamsborough, and the necessary deeds being previously executed, that service was performed. After the second lesson I confirmed one person. Public prayer being ended, a sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Green; after which I admitted Mr. James H. Otey, a candidate in this diocese, into the holy order of deacons, and the Rev. Carolus C. Brainerd, a deacon, into the holy order of priests, the Rev. Messrs. Mason, Green and Pierson assisting by imposition of hands; and then proceeded to administer the holy communion.

In the evening, divine service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Pierson, and a sermon preached by myself. Monday the 17th, we took leave of each other, and of the hospitable inhabitants of Williamsborough, and set out for our respective destinations.

My attention was next directed to the churches in the western section of this diocese. On the 2d November, accordingly, I left Raleigh for Milton, and passing through Hillsborough, where I

performed divine service and preached on the evening of the 3d, arrived there on the 4th.

On the 5th November. I performed divine service, and preached in the forenoon, and in the evening. Likewise on Sunday the 6th, the services were performed twice; and in the forenoon, after the 2d lesson. I baptized one infant.

The situation of this little congregation is very precarious, and has recently been rendered more so, by the diversion of a part of their means into an opposite direction.

On the 7th. I left Milton for Salisbury, where I arrived on the 10th, in time to attend a meeting of the vestry of St. Luke's Church, convened to ascertain the ability and inclination of the congregation to employ a clergyman. For some years past this congregation, together with that of Christ's Church, Rowan, have been altogether dependant on occasional and uncertain services, the injurious consequences of which were beginning to be very visible. As, however, there could be no doubt of their joint ability to maintain a clergyman, and it was hoped the inclination was not wanting, my main object was, to bring them to act with union and effect for this so essential a purpose. Having ascertained that St. Luke's Church was prepared to do their part, I left Salisbury for Christ's Church, where my appointments had previously been made, for the 12th and 13th days of the month; and having been joined by the Rev. Mr. Wright, divine service was performed by him, on the morning of the 12th; after the 2d lesson I baptized two children, and after service confirmed thirteen persons; I then preached a sermon, and afterwards baptised another infant.

After the services of the day were over, the vestry were convened, and readily came to the resolution to unite with St. Luke's Church, Salisbury, in calling and supporting a clergyman, and appointed a committee to arrange and conclude all necessary proceedings with the vestry of St. Luke's.

Sunday, Nov. 13th, attended at Christ's Church for the duties of the day, and was there met by the Rev. Mr. Miller, from Burke county. I here preached, and administered the holy communion to fifty six white, and three coloured communicants.

My next appointment being in Wadesborough, my course was directed thither through Salisbury, where I arrived on the 16th, attended by the Rev. Mr. Wright.

On the 17th, evening service was performed by Mr. Wright, and a sermon preached by myself.

On the 19th. I baptized one infant, and afterwards preached a sermon to a very attentive little congregation. In the evening the services were resumed, and a sermon preached to a larger and equally attentive congregation.

Sunday, November 20th, after morning prayer by the Rev. Mr. Wright, I confirmed two white, and one coloured, persons, preach-

ed and administered the holy communion to sixteen communicants. In the evening the congregation was again convened for divine service, after which I preached and catechised the children.

On the 24th, I returned to Salisbury, and to my very great satisfaction found every thing properly arranged betwixt the vestries of Christ's Church and St. Luke's, and a call given to the Rev. Mr. Wright, who readily accepted it.

Nov. 26th, morning prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Wright, during which I baptized one infant, and afterwards preached to a small congregation of attentive people.

Sunday, the 27th. I baptized two infants, after the service I confirmed one person, preached, and administered the holy communion to ten communicants.

In the evening divine service was performed by Mr. Wright, and a sermon preached by myself in the court-house, being more convenient to the inhabitants generally than the Church, which is situated at the extreme end of the town.

During my visit to this place, an interference in appointments took place, which gave me the opportunity to press upon the members of the Church the necessity, as well as the propriety, of providing a place of worship for themselves. And though the present building has been erected almost entirely at the expense of Episcopalians, yet as the ground was originally given for what is called a Free Church, and each denomination has an equal right to the use of it, I recommended to surrender it altogether, to submit to the loss, should the other denominations refuse a reasonable reimbursement, and rent some convenient place for present use, until they could provide the means of erecting a suitable building for themselves; and I have reason to believe that this, or such other course as will prevent all collision, will be pursued.

My next appointment being at St. Jude's, in the county of Orange, I took leave of the Rev. Mr. Wright and the brethren in Salisbury and its neighborhood, and reached Mr. James Davis's on the 2d December.

On the 3d, met at St. Jude's, but owing to the wetness and coldness of the day, only ten people attended. With these, however, I engaged in the worship of God, and preached in the school-house adjoining, which afforded the accommodation of a good fire.

Sunday, Dec. 4th, attended at St. Jude's again, performed divine service and preached to a full house; but few of the people, however, have any knowledge of, or feel any interest in the Church. From hence I returned through Hillsborough to Raleigh, where I arrived on the 7th.

My attention was next directed to the Churches in Fayetteville and Wilmington. And as the congregation in the former place had been dependent on occasional visits from myself and others of the clergy for the administration of the higher ordinances of religion, for

upwards of a year, occasion was taken to remedy this inconvenience; by admitting their pastor, the Rev. Henry M. Mason, deacon, who had now arrived to the proper age, to the order of priests. Having, therefore, received the necessary testimonials in favour of Mr. Mason from the standing committee, I appointed Sunday, the 12th of February, for the performance of that duty. I left Raleigh accordingly, and was met on the 10th by the Rev. Mr. Empie, and subsequently by the Rev. Mr. Richard S. Mason.

On the evening of the 11th, divine service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Henry M. Mason, and a sermon preached by myself.

Sunday, Feb. 12th, morning prayer was offered up by the Rev. Mr. Empie. and a numerous congregation, and a sermon preached by myself; after which the Rev. Mr. Henry M. Mason, deacon, was presented by the Rev. Mr. Empie. and by me admitted to the holy order of priests, the Rev. Mr. Empie, and the Rev. Mr. Richard S. Mason assisting in the imposition of hands, and in the administration of the holy communion, which followed.

Monday, the 13th, evening service was performed by the Rev. Richard S. Mason, and a sermon preached by myself.

Having spent some days with the members of this congregation, and ascertained to my great satisfaction, that they had recovered from the shock recently sustained, and that increasing regard subsisted between them and their pastor, I left them on the 15th for Wilmington, where I arrived the same day.

On the 16th, I performed divine service in the evening, and preached to a numerous assembly, giving notice that the same services would be performed every evening for the rest of the week, which was accordingly complied with, and the Church well attended.

Mr. Empie having travelled in a private conveyance did not arrive until Friday night; my previous acquaintance, however, with the members of the Church, enabled me to occupy my time both agreeably and profitably I trust, in private intercourse with them, from which I ascertained the high regard they entertain for their pastor, and the evident improvement which is taking place in this large body of Episcopalians, in favour of the distinctive principles of the Church, and of the vital doctrines of the Gospel.

Sunday, Feb. 19th, divine service was performed in the forenoon by the Rev. Mr. Empie; after which I preached and administered the holy communion.

In the evening, prayers were read, and a sermon preached by myself; and both in the morning and evening the services were performed to a numerous, attentive and devout body of worshippers.

On the 21st, I left Wilmington for Fayetteville, and on Wednesday forenoon performed divine service in the Church there; after which the Rev. H. M. Mason delivered a lecture to a small

collection of the members of the Church. In the evening divine service was performed by Mr. Mason, after which I preached to a pretty numerous congregation; and the next day returned home.

Having the eastern section of the diocese yet to attend to, the necessary notices were forwarded to the different clergymen; and on the 27th March, I left Raleigh for Newbern.

On the evening of the 28th, I preached in Waynesborough to a small collection of people in a private house. There is, however, little or no hope that the interests of the Church can be maintained in this place, or the congregation once organized, kept alive. There are a few sufficiently friendly towards the Church to give it their countenance and help, but too few to bear the weight of regular services, and with no prospect of adjoining congregations being formed to take part of the burden.

My next appointment was in Kinston, where being met by the Rev. Richard S. Mason, divine service was performed by him in the evening, and a sermon preached by myself in the court-house to a respectable assembly of the inhabitants and vicinage. From the same causes, the prospects of the Church in this place are nearly as dark as in Waynesborough. The intention, at one time pretty sanguinely entertained, of erecting a building to be used as a place of worship, has died away; while both the ability and the inclination to provide for its being regularly occupied, has declined so as to present but little hope of being shortly revived.

On the 30th, I reached Newbern, and preached to a numerous and attentive congregation.

Sunday, April the 2d, I preached morning and afternoon, and catechised the children.

A very severe attack of the prevailing influenza, put a stop to my farther public services in this congregation, as well as to those private interviews with the members of the Church, which always yield me great satisfaction. I have reason, however, to believe, that the state of the congregation is progressively prosperous, that the distinctive principles of the Church are cherished, and the interests of pure and undefiled religion are advancing.

Believing that I could bear the fatigue of the journey, I left Newbern on Friday the 7th, and arrived in Washington in the evening, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Pierson.

On the following evening, divine service was performed in St. Peter's Church by the Rev. Mr. Pierson, after which I preached to a numerous and attentive congregation.

Sunday, April the 9th, I administered the apostolic rite of confirmation to 17 persons, and preached a sermon.

An appointment being made for afternoon service at Zion Chapel, I confirmed there fourteen persons, preached to a very full congregation, and administered the holy communion.

On the 10th of April, I visited Trinity Chapel, preached, and ad-

ministered the holy communion. From Trinity I proceeded to Greenville, where a congregation has been organized through the zeal and diligence of the Rev. Mr. Pierson, and where I preached in the Academy on the 11th and 12th. The congregation was numerous and attentive; and though the number of the members and friends of the Church is not great, they are zealously engaged to promote the cause they have undertaken.

Returning to Washington, I again officiated there on the evening of the 13th, divine service being performed by the Rev. Mr. Avery, who met me in this place in order to assist in the duties to be performed in the remaining congregations in Beaufort county.

My previous appointment at Zion Chapel for the forenoon of the 14th, being interrupted by the wetness of the day, I proceeded to Bath, and on Saturday the 15th consecrated the old Episcopal Church in that place, erected in the year 1734, and now put in complete repair, to the service of Almighty God, by the name of St. Thomas's Church.

I here confirmed six persons, preached and administered the holy communion. These services were attended by a large collection of people, who manifested a suitable degree of seriousness, and appeared to be favourably impressed by the solemn and appropriate character which distinguishes them.

In the afternoon I left Bath, accompanied by the Rev. Messrs. Avery and Pierson, for Durham's creek, where my next appointment was made; and having seen the necessary deeds executed, I proceeded, on Sunday the 16th, to consecrate and set apart to the services of Almighty God, and to the use of the protestant Episcopal Church, the new building there erected, by the name of St. John's Church. Twelve persons were here confirmed, a sermon preached by myself, and the holy communion administered.

The services were attended by more persons than the building could contain, which, though fully sufficient for ordinary occasions, appropriately fitted up, and neatly finished, could not be expected to furnish accommodation to such numbers as the particular occasion drew forth.

In the formation of this congregation, and the erection of this building, with the provision the members have made for monthly services, we have a speaking proof of the zeal and diligence with which the influence of the last Convention on the interests of true religion, has been kept alive and improved by the indefatigable labours of the pastor of that parish. And it is to myself a most encouraging circumstance, that where the distinctive character of the Church, and its special purpose in the plan of our salvation by the Lord Jesus Christ, was first announced, the effect has been so conclusively in favour of those scriptural and primitive and irrefragable principles, on which we are built, as I trust it will also be to you all, my brethren, on a nearer consideration of the effect produced throughout the diocese.

Having performed the duties required at this place greatly to my satisfaction, and to the advantage of all interested, the Rev. Mr. Avery and myself returned to Bath in the evening, and the next morning set out for Edenton, where we arrived on Tuesday.

Wednesday, the 19th, divine service was performed in the evening by the Rev. Mr. Avery, and a sermon preached by myself. The same services were repeated on Thursday evening, and on both occasions to a numerous congregation for week days.

A congregation having been organized at Elizabeth City, by the exertions of the Rev. Mr. Avery, my attention was next called to that place, which I reached on Friday evening, and on Saturday morning, after divine service by the Rev. Mr. Avery, during which I baptized one infant, I confirmed seven persons, and preached. In the evening these services were repeated in the court-house to very respectable congregations.

Sunday, the 23d, morning prayer was offered up by the Rev. Mr. Avery, and devoutly joined in by the members of the Church, after which I preached to a full house, and administered the holy communion to 9 communicants. In the evening prayers were again read by Mr. Avery, and a sermon preached by myself.

Here also, my brethren, we have cause of mutual congratulation and thankfulness. The Church organized in this place, is respectable both for its numbers and the earnestness with which they are engaged to promote the Redeemer's kingdom. Funds are provided amply sufficient for the erection of a suitable place of worship, and they are provided with a clergyman, in the recent ordination of Mr. Wiley to the ministry, under whose labours, I trust, they will not only be established, but by the blessing of God, increased and extended.

On my return to Edenton the next day, the request of some of the inhabitants of Hertford was complied with, and divine service performed, and a sermon preached to a pretty numerous assembly in the Baptist meeting-house.

Wednesday, the 26th, I preached in Edenton to a large congregation.

Saturday, the 29th, I confirmed two persons, and preached to a still larger congregation than before.

Having received the necessary testimonials from the standing committee of the diocese in favour of Mr. Philip B. Wiley, a candidate for the ministry, and Sunday, the 30th of April, being the day appointed for his ordination, after morning prayer by the Rev. Mr. Avery, and a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Pierson, Mr. Wiley was presented by the Rev. Mr. Avery, and by me admitted into the holy order of deacons, in St. Paul's Church, Edenton, after which the holy communion was administered. In the afternoon prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Pierson, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Wiley. In the evening Mr. Wiley read prayers.



and a sermon was preached by myself. These services were performed to full and most attentive congregations, and all that has come within my observation on this visit to Edenton, furnishes good grounds for the encouraging hope, that the interests of religion are advancing with the increase of its power in the hearts and over the lives of the members of the Church.

Having finished the duties required in this place, I took my leave of the affectionate brethren, and on Monday, the 1st May, proceeded to Windsor, where I performed divine service and preached in the afternoon to a large collection of the inhabitants and neighbourhood, in the court-house, and from the number of prayer books and the readiness with which the service was joined in, I am encouraged to hope, that the day is not far distant, when a congregation in Windsor will be added to our number.

From Windsor I proceeded through Tarborough, where I performed divine service and preached to a small collection of people on the evening of the 3d, and reached Raleigh on the 5th.

The congregations in Orange County, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Green, remaining to be visited, I left Raleigh on the 12th May on that duty; and on Saturday, the 13th, performed divine service and preached in the building lately erected by Duncan Cameron, esq. in the vicinity of his own residence, as a place of public worship. The house is yet unfinished, but will in due time, be suitably accommodated for its appropriate uses, and will be both a handsome and commodious building, affording to the neighborhood means and opportunity for religious services, of which they were much in want.

On Sunday, the 14th, I officiated at St. Mary's Chapel, confirmed four persons, and preached to a full congregation. In the evening, the services were performed in Hillsborough, in the Female Academy in that place.

Having thus completed the visitation of the diocese, it remains, that I lay before this Convention such other information as is necessary to give a correct view of the state of the diocese, and to enable it to adopt such measures as shall best promote those great interests which are committed to the wisdom and discretion of this body.

Two changes have taken place in the former location of the clergy. The Rev. Mr. Green has removed from the charge of the congregations in Williamsborough and Warrenton, and is now settled in Hillsborough, in charge of the congregation recently organized in that place, of that at St. Mary's Chapel, and at Mr. Cameron's. His place has been supplied by the Rev. C. C. Brainerd, who continues in charge of St. John's and Emmanuel Churches, in Granville and Warren. The Rev. Mr. Wright has removed from Wadesborough, and is now settled in charge of the congregation in Salisbury, and of Christ's Church, Rowan. His removal has not yet,

to my great regret, been supplied to the very interesting little congregation of Calvary Church, Wadesborough; so that they are altogether dependent on the occasional services they may receive from the affectionate interest felt for them by their late pastor, and the Rev. Mr. Hatheway, of Cheraw, South-Carolina. These changes of situation have both been made with my entire approbation, and chiefly with a view to the general interests of the diocese; and there is good ground to hope, that under the divine blessing they will both be eminently conducive to that end. They are both stations of great importance, and will, I doubt not, call forth that zeal and diligence in their several occupants, which shall fulfil the just and reasonable expectations of their respective charges and of the diocese at large.

Two of the candidates for the ministry in this diocese have removed into other dioceses: Mr. John Davis into the diocese of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Alexander Norris into the diocese of Ohio.

The Rev. Mr. Elijah Brainerd, of Vermont, has been received into this diocese, under letters dimissory from the Bishop of the eastern diocese, and is authorized by me to officiate in such places as his age and infirmities, and the duties required of him by the school established by his family in Warrenton, will enable him to serve.

The Rev. Mr. James Otey has removed into the state of Tennessee, he having been ordained with the knowledge that such was his intention.

It will not escape the observation of the Convention, that the congregations in Burke and Lincoln visited last year, have not been included in the range of my labours for the present year. They were omitted, partly from the impossibility of so dividing my time as to give such distant places any profitable portion of it, but more from having ascertained by correspondence that the prospect of usefulness was too dark, particularly in Lincoln, to justify the sacrifice I must have made of time and labour, anxiously wished for in other directions. If our prospects in that direction are again to revive, it must be by missionary labour. The effect produced by occasional services soon wears out, and where the interval between is distant, no safe calculation can be made of any permanent advantage.

From the whole, however, it will appear, I trust, that the interests of the Church are advancing with an accelerated progress, and with them, the inseparable interests of our holy religion. Three new congregations are added to our number. Three churches have been consecrated to the service of Almighty God, one of them a new building. Four ordinations have taken place, two deacons and two priests. The close of the conventional year finds us, through the goodness of God, in perfect harmony and union, and we have but to cast our eyes to the building in which we are assembled to re-

alise "the good hand of our God upon us for good," to cause our hearts to dilate with gratitude and praise to him who, in the providence of his overruling government, hath prospered the endeavours and made fruitful the labours of his servants; and to strengthen and encourage us to persevere in carrying on the holy cause committed to our trust, and to promote and forward it, to the extent of the ability God hath given us.

In the performance of my episcopal duties since the last convention, I have travelled 2218 miles, preached ninety times, and (including those during the convention) confirmed 191 persons.

Having thus laid before you, my reverend and lay brethren, those details which my duty requires, I trust it will not be considered improper on my part, to request your particular attention to the financial concerns of the diocese. The period is not distant, if indeed it is not already come, when the increasing labours of the episcopate cannot be performed within the six months allotted to them; neither cannot it be far distant, when the congregation which at present employs and compensates half my time, will feel, beyond bearing much longer, the unprofitable nature of those broken and divided services which my almost exclusive occupation with the affairs of the diocese compel me to render to them. They have hitherto borne with great patience, the nearly entire privation of all other services from me beyond the public services of the Sabbath. But they ought not to be required to continue under so very great a sacrifice of the most profitable part of ministerial duty. With another year the last instalment of the subscription to the episcopal fund will be on demand, and the unexpended surplus only will be available as a permanent fund. Under these circumstances, and the failure in a great degree of the plan adopted at the last convention, it appears prudent at least, if not absolutely necessary, that the present convention should meet the emergency with such prospective measures as may, in a reasonable time, release the bishop from parochial charge, and enable him to give his undivided attention to the diocese.

Committing, then, to your most serious and affectionate consideration, the various interests which you are met to forward, I commend you to the guidance of that gracious Spirit from whom all good counsels do proceed, and to the protection of that ever merciful God and Saviour whose blessing alone can give a profitable issue to your consultations, and who has promised to be with his Church even to the end of the world.

A certificate of delegation from St. Jude's Church, Orange county, was presented, and Thomas Davis, a delegate from said Church, was admitted to a seat in the Convention.

4 O'CLOCK.

The Convention met according to adjournment.

Mr. Jeremiah Lippitt presented the following resolution, which passed:

*Resolved.* That so much of the Bishop's journal as relates to the means for the support of the episcopate, be referred to a select committee.

Messrs. Empie, Green and Pierson, of the clergy, and Messrs. Hogg, Lippitt and Ruffin, of the laity, were appointed on the committee.

The following gentlemen were appointed the committee on the state of the church, viz. of the clergy, Rev. Messrs. Avery, Wright and Brainerd; of the laity, Messrs. Lord, Cameron and Haigh.

Mr. Lippitt presented the following resolution, which passed:

*Resolved,* That so much of the Bishop's journal as relates to the state of individual Churches, and of the Church generally, be referred to the committee on the state of the Church.

The parochial reports were next called for, and the following were presented:

### CHRIST'S CHURCH, RALEIGH.

*John S. Ravenscroft, Rector.*

|                                |   |   |   |    |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|----|
| Baptisms, 1 adult, 6 children, | - | - | - | 7  |
| Marriages,                     | - | - | - | 2  |
| Burials.                       | - | - | - | 4  |
| Communicants,                  | - | - | - | 16 |

The condition of this congregation has not perceptibly improved, nor is it to be expected that it will under the unfavourable circumstances of occasional services. There is nothing, however, to mark any decline either in the members who attend, or in the attention paid to the service; on the contrary, during the past year the number of prayer books and of those who use them with apparent interest, have increased, and a reasonable hope is entertained that they will continue to improve.

### CHRIST'S CHURCH, NEWBERN.

*Rev. R. S. Mason, Rector.*

|                                  |   |   |    |
|----------------------------------|---|---|----|
| Baptisms, 3 adults, 21 children, | - | - | 24 |
| Burials,                         | - | - | 16 |
| Marriages,                       | - | - | 6  |

Communicants, nearly the same as at the last Convention, the number not having been perfectly ascertained.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, FAYETTEVILLE.

*Rev. Henry M. Mason, Rector.*

|                                                                     |           |               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Baptisms, 1 adult, 12 infants,                                      | -         | 13            |
| Confirmations,                                                      | - - - - - | 6             |
| Marriages,                                                          | - - - - - | 3             |
| Burials, { of the congregation 3 }<br>{ not of the congregation 3 } |           | 6             |
| Communicants,                                                       | - - - - - | 56 of these • |
| five have been added during the past year.                          |           |               |

That the religious condition of this congregation is far from being on the decline, I have every reason to believe. There is an increasing interest manifested in the liturgy and services of the Church; our Sunday School is in a flourishing condition. I have made successful endeavours to represent to the poor in our neighborhood the eminent advantages, to them above all others, of our ordinances and form of worship.

We owe a new and handsome set of plate to the liberality of the ladies of the congregation.

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ORANGE COUNTY.

*Rev. Wm. M. Green, Rector.*

The congregation has, for the past year, appeared to be stationary, if not on the decline. This, I believe, has been caused in great part by the death of several of the oldest, most influential and long tried members of the congregation. Those who had clung to the cause of the Church in that quarter, during the long season of its depression, and who were the first to shed tears of joy over the prospect of her revival, have gradually been taken away; and the children having been brought up in ignorance of the Church and of the sanctifying efficacy of its ordinances, are, for the most part, indifferent to her interests, and many of them have strayed into strange pastures. There are, however, some among the younger part of the congregation, who, through the active exertions of the managers of the Sunday School, have been taught to love, to reverence and to pray for our Zion. This school exerts a cheering influence upon my labours in that quarter. It is well attended, and is, indeed, a blessing to the neighborhood.

|                |           |    |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| Baptisms,      | - - - - - | 2  |
| Confirmations, | - - - - - | 4  |
| Communicants,  | - - - - - | 17 |
| Deaths,        | - - - - - | 2  |

## ST. MATHEW'S CHURCH, HILLSBOROUGH.

*Rev. Wm. M. Green, Rector.*

The congregation formed in this place little more than a year ago, have, with a commendable liberality, erected to the worship of Almighty God, and for the use of the Church, the building in which we are at present assembled.

In my report of this congregation, I ought to mention that the Sunday School continues to engage the attention, and I hope in time will reward the labours, of those who so zealously give themselves to the task. The ladies of the congregation have formed a society, the object of which is, by the profits of their labour, to afford pecuniary aid to the Church, which has already reaped the benefits of their labours.

|               |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Baptisms,     | - | - | - | - | - | - | 14 |
| Communicants, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 17 |
| Deaths,       | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2  |

I visited Milton a few weeks past. The few friends of the Church in that place are unshaken in their attachment to her; and could any neighbouring congregations unite with them, they would cheerfully and liberally contribute to the support of a missionary or settled pastor.

|                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baptisms in Milton, | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Person county,      | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, BURKE COUNTY.

*Rev. R. J. Miller, Rector.*

It consists of 9 families, comprising 27 individuals, exclusive of children. Eleven candidates for confirmation.

Baptisms, since the Convention held at Williams-  
borough, 1824, - - - - - 5

Before the Convention held at Washington,  
1825, children, - - - - - 10

One child and one adult, by the Bishop, 2

Since the Convention in 1825, children, 9

Total, ——— 21

Marriages, - - - - - 2

Burials, - - - - - 2

During the same period, in my visits to Iredell and Rowan counties,

Baptized, Children, - - - - - 73

Adults, - - - - - 4

African children, - - - - - 8

Total, ——— 85

|                                                         |   |   |   |   |   |        |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--------|------|
| Marriage,                                               | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 1    |
| Burials,                                                | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 2    |
| During the same period. in my visits to Lincoln county, |   |   |   |   |   |        |      |
| Baptized, Children,                                     | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 23   |
| Adults,                                                 | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 2    |
| African children,                                       | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 4    |
|                                                         |   |   |   |   |   | Total, | —29  |
| Baptized, on John's River                               | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 6    |
| on Catawba River                                        | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 5    |
|                                                         |   |   |   |   |   | Total, | —11  |
| Baptized, since April 1824, to April 1826,              |   |   |   |   |   |        | 146  |
| Baptized, at Whitehaven, on my way to                   |   |   |   |   |   |        |      |
| Convention, children,                                   | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 3    |
|                                                         |   |   |   |   |   | Total, | —149 |
| Marriages,                                              | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 2    |
| Burials,                                                | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 3    |
| Communicants, St. Andrew's Church,                      |   |   |   |   |   |        | 15   |
| Christ's Church,                                        | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 50   |
| Whitehaven,                                             | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 17   |
| Smyrna,                                                 | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 7    |
| Mr. Mill's,                                             | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 17   |
|                                                         |   |   |   |   |   | Total. | —109 |

Paid to Bishop's salary \$20.

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, EDENTON.

*Rev. John Avery, Rector.*

|                                   |   |   |   |   |   |        |    |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--------|----|
| Baptisms,                         | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 8  |
| Marriages,                        | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 3  |
| Burials,                          | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 4  |
| Communicants,                     | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 34 |
| Elizabeth City, Baptisms, Adults, | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 1  |
| Children.                         | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 4  |
|                                   |   |   |   |   |   | Total, | —5 |
| Marriages,                        | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 1  |
| Burials,                          | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 1  |
| Communicants,                     | - | - | - | - | - | -      | 6  |

### ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WILMINGTON.

*Rev. A. Empie, Rector.*

|               |   |   |     |                          |
|---------------|---|---|-----|--------------------------|
| Baptisms,     | - | - | 27  |                          |
| Marriages,    | - | - | 8   |                          |
| Burials,      | - | - | 16  | of which only 7 belonged |
| Communicants, | - | - | 136 | to my parish.            |

Six new ones have been added; but two have left the Church, four have died, four have removed, and five have withdrawn themselves from the table of the Lord.

|                                          |   |   |   |                |
|------------------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------|
| Number of families, about                | - | - | - | 80             |
| of adults,                               | - | - | - | 220            |
| of children,                             | - | - | - | 170            |
| of coloured persons,                     | - | - | - | 50             |
| Collected for the missionary fund,       | - | - | - | \$30 12½       |
| Dr. De Rossett's subscription,           | - | - | - | 2 00           |
| Contributed by the Missionary and Common |   |   |   |                |
| Prayer Book Society,                     | - | - | - | 9 00           |
| Total,                                   |   |   |   | <hr/> \$41 12½ |

### EMMANUEL CHURCH, WARRENTON.

*Rev. C. C. Brainerd, Rector.*

|                   |   |   |   |   |               |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---------------|
| Baptisms, Adults, | - | - | - | - | 3             |
| Children,         | - | - | - | - | 8             |
| Coloured child,   | - | - | - | - | 1             |
| Total,            |   |   |   |   | <hr/> 12      |
| Marriage,         | - | - | - | - | 1             |
| Burials,          | - | - | - | - | 5             |
| Communicants,     | - | - | - | - | 18            |
| Catechumens,      | - | - | - | - | from 20 to 40 |

In the course of the year our number of communicants has been increased 8: 3 have removed and 2 died. This Church has been favoured with a donation of \$1,000 by the will of Dr. Keys. The quota of this Church for the Bishop's salary has been readily collected and forwarded by the delegate. The catechetical instructions given each Sunday afternoon in the Church, have been promptly and fully attended. The books made use of are, the catechism of the Church, and the Young Churchman's Guide, by the Rev. H. Croswell. The prospects of this Church are on the whole favourable. The friends of the Church remain firm and devoted, and her numbers increase. Divine service is fully attended, and this attention is increasing.

### ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, WILLIAMSBOROUGH.

*Rev. C. C. Brainerd, Rector.*

|                     |   |   |   |          |
|---------------------|---|---|---|----------|
| Baptisms, Children, | - | - | - | 13       |
| Coloured children,  | - | - | - | 4        |
| Total,              |   |   |   | <hr/> 17 |
| Confirmed,          | - | - | - | 5        |



Communicants, 4 added, 1 died, 1 removed, present number 18.

Repeated exertions have been made by the Rector to collect the baptized children of the parish, for the purpose of instructing them in the principles of the Church, which have been partially successful. The services of the Church are well attended; her friends remain firm and devoted, and her numbers gradually increase. Much praise is due to the ladies of the congregation for their exertions to promote the welfare of the Church. The quota of this congregation to the support of the Episcopate, has been collected by the efforts of two of the ladies of the parish, and forwarded to the Convention.

### ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WASHINGTON, BEAUFORT COUNTY.

*Rev. Joseph Pierson, Rector.*

|                   |   |   |        |   |    |
|-------------------|---|---|--------|---|----|
| Baptisms, Adults, | - | - | -      | - | 5  |
| Children,         | - | - | -      | - | 30 |
|                   |   |   | Total, | — | 35 |
| Confirmations,    | - | - | -      | - | 51 |
| Communicants,     | - | - | -      | - | 40 |
| Marriage,         | - | - | -      | - | 1  |
| Burials,          | - | - | -      | - | 13 |

The state of this congregation is prosperous; they are attached to the services of the Church, and have a Sunday School of forty scholars.

### ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, BATH, BEAUFORT COUNTY.

|                   |   |   |        |   |    |
|-------------------|---|---|--------|---|----|
| Baptisms, Adults, | - | - | -      | - | 4  |
| Children,         | - | - | -      | - | 25 |
|                   |   |   | Total, | — | 29 |
| Confirmations,    | - | - | -      | - | 31 |
| Communicants,     | - | - | -      | - | 10 |
| Burials,          | - | - | -      | - | 9  |

The state of this congregation is improving. There is here a Sunday School of forty scholars.

### TRINITY CHURCH, BEAUFORT COUNTY.

|                  |   |   |        |   |    |
|------------------|---|---|--------|---|----|
| Baptisms, Adult, | - | - | -      | - | 1  |
| Children,        | - | - | -      | - | 5  |
|                  |   |   | Total, | — | 6  |
| Confirmations,   | - | - | -      | - | 12 |
| Communicants,    | - | - | -      | - | 14 |
| Burials,         | - | - | -      | - | 1  |

### ZION CHURCH, BEAUFORT COUNTY.

|                  |   |   |   |        |           |
|------------------|---|---|---|--------|-----------|
| Baptisms, Adult, | - | - | - | -      | 1         |
| Children,        | - | - | - | -      | 16        |
|                  |   |   |   | Total, | <u>17</u> |
| Confirmations,   | - | - | - | -      | 28        |
| Communicants,    | - | - | - | -      | 13        |
| Burials,         | - | - | - | -      | 4         |

This congregation manifests great zeal.

### ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, BEAUFORT COUNTY.

|                   |   |   |   |        |           |
|-------------------|---|---|---|--------|-----------|
| Baptisms, Adults, | - | - | - | -      | 2         |
| Children,         | - | - | - | -      | 11        |
|                   |   |   |   | Total, | <u>13</u> |
| Confirmations,    | - | - | - | -      | 12        |
| Communicants,     | - | - | - | -      | 4         |
| Burials,          | - | - | - | -      | 1         |

This congregation was organized and has built a Church this year.

### ST. JAMES' CHURCH, GREENVILLE, PITT COUNTY.

|                   |   |   |   |        |          |
|-------------------|---|---|---|--------|----------|
| Baptisms, Adults, | - | - | - | -      | 3        |
| Child,            | - | - | - | -      | 1        |
|                   |   |   |   | Total, | <u>4</u> |
| Communicants,     | - | - | - | -      | 3        |

This congregation has been just organized.

|                          |   |   |        |            |
|--------------------------|---|---|--------|------------|
| Total, Baptisms, Adults, | - | - | -      | 16         |
| Children,                | - | - | -      | 88         |
|                          |   |   | Total, | <u>104</u> |
| Confirmations,           | - | - | -      | 134        |
| Communicants,            | - | - | -      | 84         |
| Burials,                 | - | - | -      | 28         |

### CHRIST'S CHURCH, AND ST. LUKE'S, ROWAN COUNTY.

*Rev. Thomas Wright, Rector.*

|                                                       |   |   |   |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|----|
| Baptisms, St. Luke's, Salisbury. children             | - | - | - | 4  |
| Christ's Church, Rowan, 6 white children, 1 coloured, | 7 |   |   |    |
| Calvary Church, Wadesborough, 1 adult, coloured,      |   |   |   |    |
| 3 white children, 7 coloured,                         | - | - | - | 11 |

|                                                      |   |   |   |   |   |       |    |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-------|----|
| Confirmed, Calvary Church,                           | - | - | - | - | - | 3     |    |
| St. Luke's,                                          | - | - | - | - | - | 1     |    |
| Christ's Church,                                     | - | - | - | - | - | 13    |    |
|                                                      |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/> | 17 |
| Communicants, Christ's Church,                       | - | - | - | - | - | 64    |    |
| St. Luke's,                                          | - | - | - | - | - | 11    |    |
| Calvary Church,                                      | - | - | - | - | - | 15    |    |
|                                                      |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/> | 90 |
| Collections for the Bishop's salary, Calvary Church, |   |   |   |   |   | \$ 30 | 00 |
| Christ's Church,                                     |   |   |   |   |   | 25    | 00 |
| St. Luke's,                                          |   |   |   |   |   | 15    | 00 |
|                                                      |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/> |    |
|                                                      |   |   |   |   |   | 70    | 00 |
| For the contingent fund,                             |   |   |   |   |   | 15    | 00 |
|                                                      |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/> |    |
|                                                      |   |   |   |   |   | \$ 85 | 00 |

From April, 1825, to the close of that year, I officiated at Wadesborough, occasionally visiting Christ's Church and St. Luke's. In January I took charge of the congregations in Rowan county, reserving five Sundays in the year for my former flock. In behalf of the members of Calvary Church I earnestly entreat the fostering care of our Bishop, and that something may be done for them, if possible, by the Missionary Society. Our prospects in the parish of St. Luke's, though not flattering, are as good, perhaps, as ought to be expected under existing circumstances. The brethren of Christ's Church, in general, are of one mind, and one spirit; and walking themselves in the old paths and the good way, will induce others also to follow in their steps. They have recently raised the frame of a new building, sixty feet by forty, which will soon be enclosed, and probably ready for the celebration of divine service in October or November next.

On my way to Convention, I officiated at St. Jude's to a respectable congregation, and administered the sacrament of baptism to one child. I had some conversation with the members and friends of the Church, who expressed an earnest desire for missionary services. "If a minister could visit us," say they, "twice a month, once a month, or even once in two months, it would rejoice our hearts, and we would do what we could towards his support."

On motion it was then *Resolved*, That the above parochial reports be referred to the committee on the state of the Church.

Mr. Maurice Waddell, a lay delegate from St. James' Church, Wilmington, appeared and took his seat.

A certificate of lay delegation from St. John's Church, Williamsborough, was presented, and Mr. John C. Taylor, the delegate named therein, was admitted to his seat.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to superintend the printing of 500 copies of the Journal during the present session of the convention.

The Rev. Mr. R. S. Mason and Mr. Walker Anderson, were then appointed as the committee.

Convention adjourned to meet again at 9 o'clock on the following morning.

At night, divine service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Pierson, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Henry M. Mason, from Titus ii. 11.

Friday, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment, and was opened with prayer from the Bishop.

The report of the standing committee was presented.

### REPORT.

The standing committee respectfully report, that during the setting of the last Convention they granted testimonials to be presented to the Bishop for the admission of Philip B. Wiley and James H. Otey, as candidates for orders; that they have subsequently granted testimonials in favour of Carolus C. Brainerd, James H. Otey and Phillip B. Wiley, as candidates for admission into the sacred order of deacons; that they have, at different times, recommended for priest's orders, the Rev. Joseph Pierson, the Rev. C. C. Brainerd, and the Rev. Henry M. Mason.

By order of the Standing Committee.

ADAM EMPIE, *President*.

Mr. F. Hawks, the member from Christ's Church, Newbern, appeared and took his seat.

On motion of Mr. Hogg, *Resolved*, That the minutes of this Convention be referred to a select committee for the purpose of revising the same, and that they report every morning.

*Resolved*, That the minutes as revised be read to the Convention every morning, before they be sent to the printer for publication.

The committee were then appointed, consisting of the Rev. Mr. Pierson, and Messrs. Ruffin and Hogg.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the standing committee be now elected by ballot; and the following gentlemen were elected: Messrs. Empie and R. S. Mason, of the clergy, and Messrs. F. I. Hill, James S. Green, and Wm. H. Haywood, jr. of the laity.

Mr. John W. Wright, a member from St. John's Church, Fayetteville, appeared and took his seat.

Mr. Wright, treasurer of the Convention, then made his annual report.\*

\* See Appendix D.

Convention then adjourned to attend divine service.

Morning service by the Rev. C. C. Brainerd, and a sermon by the Rev. John Avery, from 1 John v. 4.

After divine service, Convention again assembled for business.

The contributions in arrear to the contingent fund were next called for, and the following payments made:

|                                           |         |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|
| St. John's Church, Fayetteville, - -      | \$30 00 |
| St. Luke's Church, Salisbury, - -         | 15 00   |
| St. Peter's Church, Washington, - -       | 15 00   |
| St. Matthew's Church, Hillsborough, - -   | 7 00    |
| eight having been previously contributed. |         |
| St. John's Church, Williamsborough, - -   | 4 00    |

On motion, *Resolved*, That the treasurer's report be referred to the select committee on the means for the support of the Episcopate.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Green, *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to report to the next Convention rules of order.

The President appointed the following gentlemen on this committee, viz. Rev. Mr. Empie, and Messrs. James S. Green and William Lord.

The Convention then adjourned, to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

At night, divine service was performed by the Rev. C. C. Brainerd, and a sermon was preached by the Rev. Thos. Wright, from Heb. vi. 11, 12; and a collection made in aid of the Missionary Society.

Saturday, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention met according to adjournment, and was opened with prayer by the Bishop. The minutes of the preceding days were read and accepted.

Wm. Norwood, James S. Smith and Francis L. Hawks, from St. Matthew's Church, Hillsborough, appeared and took their seats.

Certificates of lay delegation from Christ's Church, Raleigh, for Wm. H. Haywood, jr. and George E. Badger, were presented, when those gentlemen appeared and took their seats.

The Rev. C. C. Brainerd requested leave of absence, which was granted.

On motion, Mr. F. L. Hawks was added to the publishing committee and to the revising committee.

Mr. Empie's resolution was called up, and after some discussion was ordered to be laid on the table.

Convention then adjourned to attend divine service.

Morning service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Avery, and a sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Pierson, from Titus iii. 5.

After service, Convention again assembled.

On motion, *Resolved*. That the Convention do now proceed to the election of delegates to the General Convention.

Messrs. Avery, R. S. Mason, Green, and H. M. Mason, of the clergy, and Messrs. Josiah Collins, Gavin Hogg, Jeremiah Lippett and Walker Anderson, of the laity, were elected. Convention then adjourned till 4 o'clock, P. M.

4 O'CLOCK.

Convention assembled according to adjournment.

The resolution for fixing the time and place of the meeting of the next Convention was next called for, and it was *Resolved*. That the next Convention be holden at Newbern, on Thursday, the 17th of May, 1827.

The report of the committee on the state of the Church, was then called.

## REPORT.

The committee on the state of the Church, have little more to do than to refer their brethren of this Convention, and the diocese, to the Journal of our Bishop, and the satisfactory Parochial Reports of other ministers. From these, it appears that the labours of the clergy have been greatly blessed during the past Conventional year. Many have been gathered into the fold, believers have been confirmed and strengthened in the faith, and the work of God is still in progress.

Baptisms, since last April, and including Mr. Miller's report of 1825, 404, increase of communicants, 117, confirmed by the Bishop, 191.

THOMAS WRIGHT.

The report of the committee was accepted.

On motion, *Resolved*. That the treasurer's report be printed with the Journals.

JOHN W. WRIGHT was then unanimously re-elected treasurer.

On motion, *Resolved*. That the treasurer of the Convention, do, from time to time, invest in bank stock, all monies in the treasury not needed for a special purpose.

On motion, *Resolved*. That the board of managers of the Missionary Society be requested to report to this Convention the operations, condition and prospects of the same.

The report of the select committee was called for and presented as follows:

## REPORT.

The select committee to whom was referred so much of the Bishop's Journal as relates to the episcopate fund, and to whom was also referred the treasurer's account, beg leave to report.

The committee, sensible of the great interest the Church has in the increase of the fund for the support of the episcopate, have given due attention to its present state. By an account marked A,\* and herewith submitted, it appears that there has been a gain to the fund, after paying all expenses, of 452 dollars since last Convention: and that after deducting 191 dollars for the subscriptions of insolvents, and 110 dollars subscribed by the clergy, (which last deduction the committee beg leave to recommend,) there still remains a nett gain from last Convention of 147 dollars. The committee also recommend that the contributions from the several congregations be increased according to an estimate herewith submitted, marked B.† It is reasonable to expect that the payments will not be made according to the estimate, and it is therefore, necessary to provide for any expected deficiency by raising the estimate above the true amount required. This is accordingly done in the estimate submitted: the amount of the contribution being 890 dollars, and the salary of the Bishop 750 dollars. If there be more than 750 dollars contributed, there will be no inconvenience, as the treasurer may be authorized by a resolution to vest all surplus money, at any time in the treasury, in bank stock.

The plan of last year, it is believed, was not fully understood by the congregations, and, therefore, most of the payments were deferred, in whole or in part, to the present Convention: the delegates, and particularly the clergy, would serve the Church by impressing it on the several congregations that the payments ought to be made *to the treasurer* as early after June, 1826, as possible.

The committee beg leave to observe, that there is a very large amount due on the subscriptions of 1823, 1824 and 1825, and that of 1826 will be due immediately. The fund has sustained a great loss of interest by deferred payment, and they recommend that the present agent be requested to proceed to collect the sums due, and which may fall due, without delay.

The committee have made an estimate of the contingent expenses for 1826—27, and a scheme for raising a fund to defray them, marked C,‡ which is respectfully submitted.

The committee have examined the treasurer's report, and find it correct.

A. EMPIE, *Chairman.*

This report was accepted.

The following resolution and canon, offered by Wm. H. Haywood, jr. was referred to a select committee.

*Resolved,* That it be referred to a select committee to inquire into the expediency of amending the 8th section of the constitution of the Church.

\* See Appendix A.

† See Appendix B.

‡ See Appendix C.

*Resolved, farther,* That it be referred to the same committee to inquire into the propriety of enacting a canon, which shall give to the Bishop a veto on the acts of the convention.

The committee appointed are, of the clergy, Messrs. Empie and Avery; of the laity, Messrs. Ruffin, Haywood and Badger.

The trustees of the General Theological Seminary were nominated, viz. Messrs. Empie and Avery, of the clergy, and Messrs. Duncan Cameron and Josiah Collins, of the laity.

On motion, *Resolved,* That the Rev. Wm. Green be continued in his agency, to collect subscriptions for the support of the episcopate; and that he be authorized to appoint agents wheresoever he may judge them to be necessary.

On motion, *Resolved, unanimously,* That the thanks of this Convention be given to Mr. J. W. Wright, for the care and exactness with which he has managed the pecuniary concerns of the Convention.

Mr. F. Hawks, a delegate from Christ's Church, Newbern, asked and obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

Convention adjourned to meet on Monday, at 7 o'clock, A. M.

At night, divine service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Avery, and a sermon was delivered by the Rev. Mr. R. S. Mason, from Psalms cxvi. 11, 12, 13. The rite of confirmation was administered to four persons.

The services of Sunday were commenced by the consecration of the Church recently erected, by the title of St. Matthew's Church. Morning prayer was then offered up by the Rev. Mr. Empie; a sermon from Eph. iv. 4. delivered, and the sacrament of the eucharist celebrated by the Bishop.

In the afternoon, divine service was performed by the Rev. Thos. Wright, and a sermon delivered by Rev. Adam Empie, from Matt. vii. 13, 14.

At night, prayers by the Rev. H. M. Mason, and a sermon by the Bishop, from Mat. xxii. 11, 12.

Monday, 7 o'clock, A. M.

Convention met according to adjournment, when the minutes of Saturday were read. Duncan Cameron, a delegate from St. Mary's Chapel, having been prevented by indisposition from attending before, appeared and took his seat.

The committee, to whom was referred an inquiry into the expediency of altering the 8th article of the constitution of the Church, made the following report.

## REPORT.

The committee to whom was referred an inquiry into the expediency of so altering the 8th article of the constitution of the



Church, as to provide against the lay delegates being required to vote by congregations, report, that a majority of the committee are of opinion, that each lay delegate should be entitled to a vote for himself, as it will by no means diminish the relative weight of the clergy in the councils of the Church, and will stimulate each Church to send a full delegation to the Convention; whereas, as the constitution stands, it is to the interest of a Church to send only *one*, though entitled to four delegates, for that one can vote effectually always, when the four may be divided and give no vote. Besides, your committee are satisfied that it greatly retards the progress of business to be obliged to call over the congregations by name, and ask their vote on every question, however unimportant. And your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution.

*Resolved*, That the 8th article of the constitution be, and is hereby, repealed; and *Resolved*, *farther*, That the following be adopted in its stead: "In all matters which shall come before the Convention, the clergy and laity shall deliberate in one body, and in voting, each member of the Convention shall have one vote; but if, in any case, it be required by two members, the orders shall vote separately, and a concurrence in such case shall be necessary to make a decision.

The report of the board of managers of the Missionary Society was then called for, when the following report was made.

### R E P O R T.

In conformity with the resolution of this Convention, the board of managers of the Missionary Society present the following report of its operations, condition and prospects, under their respective heads.

Its operations have been confined to the endeavours to obtain missionaries, which have hitherto been unsuccessful. By correspondence through their president, application was made for persons suitably qualified, to direct their attention to this diocese; and information was given that remuneration, equivalent to forty dollars per month, the missionary providing for himself, would be assured. No application for employment has hitherto been made, which could with propriety be accepted. And it is believed, that such is the progressive state of the Church, throughout the United States, that no strong hope can be entertained, that help can be obtained in this way. The society, however, feel no disposition to relax their efforts to obtain missionaries, but are rather inclined to increase the remuneration hitherto offered, in the hope that higher inducement may attract more attention. The correspondence will be continued, and extended in every direction which can promise to be successful. The wants of all the dioceses, in this respect, are

nearly equal with our own; there is, therefore, no reason to expect, that our want in this behalf will attract such attention as to give the society much choice in the employment of missionaries. And as they are regulated by the principle, that it is better that its funds should remain idle, than be expended in the employment of missionaries whose qualifications give no promise of efficacy; they trust, that this Convention, and the friends of the society, will see, in the adoption of this principle, increased grounds of confidence in the society, as careful managers and disposers of their charity, and be induced to continue that support, which will eventually render their operations profitable.

The condition of the society refers, it is presumed, to its pecuniary concerns. These are comprised in the receipt and possession of disposable funds to the amount of about 935 dollars.

These funds of the society are invested in public stock, and no difficulty, it is understood, will arise from this circumstance, in the immediate employment of missionaries, should such present themselves.

The prospects of the society cannot very easily be detailed. It lives in hope, that this severe want will yet be met by efficient help. But its main dependence is rather of a remote character. It is founded on the scholarships in the general seminary, endowed by the subscriptions of the members of the Church in this diocese, to that institution. As the Convention possesses the right of nomination to these scholarships, they possess the control of the services of those benefited by them. These they may direct to this very necessary and profitable end by a previous agreement, at once beneficial to the individual and to the diocese. And the board cannot refrain the expression of its opinion, that this circumstance will tend to enlarge the patronage given to the General Theological Seminary by this diocese.

That young men, from among our own population, will be raised up to enter the ministry, we may reasonably expect; that to some of them the aid of the scholarship will be of importance, and that through this aid, the diocese will obtain a right to their services, as missionaries, or the regular remuneration for such services, independent of the assistance given through the scholarship. To such men we may look with confidence for zealous exertion and permanent usefulness; and this, in connexion with its intrinsic importance to the Church, will give to the general seminary, it is hoped, increased favour in the regards of the members of the Church in this diocese, and induce the wealthy of our communion to patronize and promote its interests, with the full weight of their power and influence.

The officers of the society for the present year are as follows:

Rt. Rev. JOHN S. RAVENSCROFT, *President.*

DR. A. J. DE ROSSETT,  
 JOSIAH COLLINS,  
 MOSES JARVIS, } *Vice Presidents.*

Rev. JOSEPH PIERSON, *Secretary.*

CHARLES T. HAIGH, *Treasurer.*

Rt. Rev. JOHN S. RAVENSCROFT,

Rev. ADAM EMPIE,

Rev. JOSEPH PIERSON,

Rev. HENRY M. MASON, }

*Board of Managers,*

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN S. RAVENSCROFT.

On motion, it was unanimously *Resolved*. That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to the inhabitants of Hillsborough for their kind and hospitable entertainment of the members of this Convention; and that the Rev. Wm. Green be requested to give public notice of this resolution.

The Rt. Rev. President then delivered an Episcopal charge; which is herewith presented.

### CHARGE.

My brethren of the Clergy and Laity,

The important interests to which your attention has been directed during the session of this Convention, are calculated to engage the most earnest endeavours, that the counsels agreed upon for the advancement of the Church, and the kingdom of the Redeemer, should be successful. But to this end, it is not only necessary that the measures directed by this body should be correct in principle, and required by the interests of the Church, but practically attainable, also, by the reasonable ability of the members. That such is the character of the resolutions you have now come to, must be evident to all who consider the magnitude of the objects to be attained, with the means which are at the reasonable disposal of the representatives of the Church.

Past experience, however, teaches us, that neither the necessity or the advantage of a particular measure, nor yet the ability to carry it into effect, are in themselves sufficient to ensure general cooperation. The Convention of the Church, though the proper representative of the particular congregations comprising it, and in fact a legislative body; yet, as it is clothed with no coercive power, is liable to find its best devised and best intended measures, paralyzed, if not altogether defeated, by the negligence or indifference of its constituents.

That this every way indefensible, and, if much longer continued, most ruinous state of insubordination to the fundamental prin-

ciple of all regularly associated bodies, is, in our particular case, my brethren, the consequence of inconsideration in some, and want of proper information in others, I am well persuaded, and am, therefore, induced to give my annual charge to the diocese such a direction as may tend to obviate this evil, by laying before the members of the Church such a plain, yet concise view of the popular nature of our frame of ecclesiastical government, as shall tend to engage and secure the ready concurrence and cooperation of all our members in favour of the measures agreed upon, either for particular or general good, by the regularly elected representatives of the particular congregations and of the diocese at large.

The first delegation of power and authority by the members individually, is that committed to the vestries of each particular congregation. These are bodies of men, varying in number according to the constitution of particular dioceses, but most commonly limited to twelve, annually chosen by a majority of the votes of each particular congregation, and form, as it were, the legislative council of the parish or congregation by which they are elected. To the vestries it appertains to direct and transact the secular concerns of the congregation; to assess and collect the pecuniary contributions required of the members; to appoint the delegates to the diocesan Conventions; to elect the church-wardens out of their own body; and to act as counsellors and assessors with their clergyman, if required, in cases of discipline, and other matters of common concern. They are also required to keep a regular record of the members of the congregation, of the marriages, baptisms, and burials, in the parish or congregation, and to enter a statement of their proceedings at every meeting.

To the church-wardens it more especially belongs, to take care of the church buildings; of the communion plate, books and vestments; to provide the elements for the holy communion, at the common expense; to maintain order and decorum during public worship; and to regulate the necessary provision for the poor of the parish. It is their duty also, in the absence, or at the desire of the minister, to preside according to seniority of appointment, at all meetings of the vestry; to direct the entries to be made by the secretary according to the determination of the majority, to sign the proceedings of each meeting, and to certify all extracts from the records, particularly all certificates of delegation to the diocesan Conventions.

From this brief view of the appointment and purpose of vestries, it must be evident, I think, that provision is made for the administration of parochial affairs upon the most popular model compatible with order and effect. The vestry men being themselves members of the congregation, must be intimately acquainted with the condition and circumstances of their constituents; and as they must themselves be affected, in a proportional degree, by the resolves of the

vestry, every security is obtained that nothing like oppression or injustice towards the rest of the members will be attempted. But even if such a case should occur, the congregation retains the remedy in their own hands, in the annual elections.

The next delegation of power and authority from the members of the Church, is that which is exercised, mediately, through the vestries, in the appointment of lay delegates to the diocesan conventions.

These bodies are to the dioceses at large, what the particular vestries are to the several congregations composing them. The only difference between them being that which arises from the charge and management of general and particular interests, and the consequently superior importance of their determinations.

To the diocesan conventions, and of course to this body, as such, it appertains to consult and provide for the general interests of the diocese: to enact, amend, or repeal, canons, or laws ecclesiastical, for the regulation of the members at large; to elect the bishop; to appoint the standing committee, or council of advice for the bishop; to choose the clerical and lay delegates to represent the diocese in the triennial conventions of the general church in these United States; and to assess and regulate the pecuniary contributions which are required for the general interests. And as the particular vestries are the organs through which the enactments of the diocesan conventions are carried into effect, so are the diocesan conventions also the organs whereby the general convention fulfils its still higher and more comprehensive duties. Through these, as links in the chain, the frame of our ecclesiastical government is compacted together by joints and bands which are essentially popular. It is based upon the will of the majority of the members, personally exercised, in the immediate election of the vestries, and it returns to them again in the annual control which they retain over those elections; and that they may act with judgment on their affairs, provision is made for their full information, by the public manner in which the conventions hold their sessions, and by the general dissemination of the annual journal of their proceedings.

With a frame of ecclesiastical government as directly assimilated to, and equally congenial with, the civil institutions of our country, as that of any other known religious denomination in it, Episcopalians may surely be permitted to express their sorrow, that so persevering an effort should have been made to impress upon the public mind the false and unfounded persuasion, that the principles of their government, and the tenets of their religious belief, are alike hostile to the free and happy institutions of this favoured land; and to indulge the hope, that both those who circulate, and those who receive, so injurious and uncharitable a misrepresentation, will at least take the pains to be more truly informed. As, however, this remainder of a most unhappy prejudice has been

widely spread and long entertained, I feel it due to the interests committed to me, to show farther, that in the administration of the frame of government adopted by the Protestant Episcopal Church in these United States, nothing contrary to the will of the individual members of the Church, expressed by a majority of their representatives, can be forced upon them. Every bishop is elected by the votes of the clergy and laity of the diocese assembled in convention; every pastor of a particular parish or congregation, is called to the charge by the vestry of the parish; and the vestry being elected by the members themselves, every precaution is taken, that as the whole is instituted for the common benefit, common consent shall be the basis from which all necessary power and authority to administer the system with advantage and effect, shall spring. Nothing despotic, nothing unregulated by laws, passed by the representatives of the members of the Church, is admitted in the constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Even the bishop is only an executive officer, restrained and directed by express canons in the exercise of the authority committed to him. The only absolute power possessed by him being that of a negative nature, and this confined to matters purely conscientious, such as the refusal to admit a candidate for ordination, although recommended by the examiners, as, in their judgment, qualified to receive orders, and cases of a like nature. A bishop can neither suspend, displace, or degrade a clergyman, otherwise than as the canons direct. Nor can a clergyman exercise the discipline of the Church upon a communicant, except according to the rubrics and canons, and ultimately liable to the decision of the bishop, to whom, in every such case, an appeal lies.

Every security being thus taken against the oppressive exercise of the authority confided to the different officers who are appointed to administer its affairs, and no authority being conferred but what is absolutely necessary for the edification of the body, it should surely be a prevailing argument with Episcopalians, to respect and support their ecclesiastical constitution, by the observance of all the duties it imposes upon them.

And first, they owe to their own interest, to the credit and welfare of the Church, and to the advancement of true religion, a conscientious performance of their right and duty in the election of the members of the vestry. On this every thing may be said to depend, because to the vestries all subsequent measures for the year are referred. And not only is it a conscientious duty, that every member of the Church should personally attend on the annual election day, but that he should vote also for those persons who, for their piety, their standing in public estimation, and other qualifications combined, give the best assurance of a faithful and profitable performance of the trust committed to them. In electing these men, respect should be had, in the first place, to their standing as

Christians; a christian body should surely be represented by christians. In truth, it is desirable, that in every case the representatives of the Church should be communicants. But as this, unhappily, is not in all cases possible, it is therefore not insisted upon, nor is any particular congregation, or the Church at large, debarred, by any regulation, from the services of those friendly laymen, whose orderly lives, and respect for religion, encourage the happy hope that they are not far from the kingdom of God.

Secondly, they owe it to conscience and to consistency, to obey the regulations, and carry into effect the lawful resolutions and enactments of their representatives. As the members of a particular Church are morally bound by the acts of their vestry: so are all the congregations in a diocese, equally bound by the acts of their Convention; and all the Conventions of this country by the acts of the General Convention of this Church. And the ground of this obligation is plain and obvious. As the individual members are bound by every principle of right reason to perform the duties and fulfil the engagements, growing out of the lawful acts of their immediate representatives; so are these also, in the same manner, equally bound by the lawful acts of their immediate representatives, up to the highest judicatory known to the Church.

From this very brief but just statement of the popular principle upon which the frame of our ecclesiastical government is founded, the members of the Church in this diocese, I trust, will be induced to pay more attention to the election of their immediate representatives, and feel that the carelessness and indifference, too frequently manifested as to this duty, is, in fact, a surrender at once of private and public obligation, and a mark of great laxity of principle, both as churchmen and christians.

As an additional and very powerful reason to give to the whole of this subject the serious consideration its real importance demands, I would remark, that as the whole power possessed by the administrative bodies of the Church is of a moral nature, and dependant for its effect on the influence of this principle over the members, all unnecessary neglect of the personal duties consequent on the right of election by them, of the relative duty of representatives, with all refusal to carry into effect the decisions of the vestries and conventions, is so far, very conclusive proof of the weakness of the moral principle, of indifference to the interests of religion, and of disregard for the only just and safe ground on which either civil or religious liberty can be maintained, viz. submission to the will of the majority, constitutionally declared.

Let not, then, the Church of which we are happily members, have to take up the reproach of her great Founder and Head, as expressed by the prophet Isaiah, "I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me." Our nursing mother appeals to us for support; let us not prove ourselves unnatural

children by devouring the breasts which we have sucked, and refusing the support and defence which our spiritual parent requires in the day of her need. She has given all to her children; she has reserved nothing for herself, but the comfort and consolation which springs from unfeigned love and devoted attachment in them, grounded on the irrefragible testimony of heaven and earth united in favour of her divine origin and saving purpose, as held and maintained by the Protestant Episcopal Church in these United States.

*Resolved, unanimously,* That the clergy be required to read the Episcopal Charge delivered to the Convention, to their respective congregations on some suitable occasion of public worship.

There being no other business before the house, the Convention then adjourned *sine die*, concluding with prayer by the Bishop.



# APPENDIX.

## A.

### *State of the Episcopal Fund.*

|                                                                                                        |               |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Balance of subscriptions due from 1st June, 1823,                                                      | -             | \$ 106 00       |
| Ditto ditto 1st June, 1824,                                                                            | -             | 380 00          |
| Ditto ditto 1st June, 1825,                                                                            | -             | 969 00          |
| Amount which will be due from subscriptions on 1st June, 1826,                                         | - - - - -     | 1,485 00        |
| Amount of ditto which will be due 1st June, 1,491 dolls.                                               |               |                 |
| less interest for one year, 89 dolls.                                                                  | - - -         | 1,402 00        |
| Fifteen shares of stock of the State Bank, N. C.                                                       | -             | 1,500 00        |
| Amount of small subscriptions of \$2 and \$1, due 1st June, '23, '24, '25, '26, '27, - - - - -         |               | 175 00          |
| Amount due the treasurer on contributions to contingent expenses, and not needed during the past year, | -             | 224 00          |
| Cash in the hands of the treasurer undisposed of, according to his account,                            | - - - - -     | 414 00          |
|                                                                                                        |               | <u>6,685 00</u> |
| Deductions, amount of fund as reported to last convention,                                             |               | 6,203 00        |
|                                                                                                        |               | <u>452 00</u>   |
| Total gain,                                                                                            |               |                 |
| Further deductions recommended—                                                                        |               |                 |
| Subscriptions of clergy, - - -                                                                         | 110 00        |                 |
| Subscriptions of persons who have become insolvent, - - - - -                                          | 195 00        |                 |
|                                                                                                        | <u>305 00</u> |                 |
| Nett gain,                                                                                             |               | <u>147 00</u>   |

## B.

*Sums to be paid by the Congregations to the support of the Episcopate on 1st June, 1826.*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |   |   |   |   |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----------------------|
| St. James' Church, Wilmington,                                                                                                                                                                                                               | - | - | - | - | \$110 00             |
| St. John's Church, Fayetteville,                                                                                                                                                                                                             | - | - | - | - | 110 00               |
| St. Paul's Church, Edenton,                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | - | - | - | - | 110 00               |
| Christ's Church, Newbern,                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 110 00               |
| Christ's Church, Raleigh,                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 70 00                |
| — St. Matthew's Church, Hillsborough, and St. Mary's and St. Jude's Churches, Orange county,                                                                                                                                                 | - | - | - | - | 70 00                |
| St. Luke's Church, Salisbury, Christ's Church, Rowan county, St. Michael's Church, Iredell county, St. Peter's Church, Lexington, White Haven Church, Smyrna, and St. Peter's Church, Lincoln county, and St. Andrew's Church, Burke county, | - | - | - | - | 70 00                |
| St. Peter's, Washington, St. Thomas's, Bath, and Trinity and Zion Churches, Beaufort county,                                                                                                                                                 | - | - | - | - | 70 00                |
| St. John's Church, Williamsborough,                                                                                                                                                                                                          | - | - | - | - | 35 00                |
| Emmanuel Church, Warrenton,                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | - | - | - | - | 35 00                |
| Calvary Church, Wadesborough,                                                                                                                                                                                                                | - | - | - | - | 20 00                |
| Christ's Church, Elizabeth City,                                                                                                                                                                                                             | - | - | - | - | 20 00                |
| Grace Chapel, Pitt county, St. Mark's Church, Halifax, St. Matthew's Church, Kingston, Union Church, Wadesborough, and St. Paul's Church, Milton, \$10 each,                                                                                 |   |   |   |   | 60 00                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |   |   |   |   | <hr/> \$890 00 <hr/> |

## C.

*Contingent Expenses, from 1st June, 1826, to 1st June, 1827.*

|                                                            |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| For printing Journals, &c. for Convention at Hillsborough, | 70 00                |
| For Episcopal visitations,                                 | 100 00               |
| For General Convention,                                    | 10 00                |
|                                                            | <hr/> \$180 00 <hr/> |

*Contributions to Contingent Fund for 1826 and 1827.*

|                                                           |   |   |   |   |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----------|
| St. James' Church, Wilmington,                            | - | - | - | - | 25 00    |
| Christ's Church, Fayetteville,                            | - | - | - | - | 25 00    |
| Christ's Church, Newbern,                                 | - | - | - | - | 25 00    |
| St. Paul's Church, Edenton,                               | - | - | - | - | 25 00    |
| Christ's Church, Raleigh,                                 | - | - | - | - | 10 00    |
| —St. Matthew's, Hillsborough, and Churches in Orange,     |   |   |   |   | 10 00    |
| St. Luke's, Salisbury, and Christ's Church, Rowan,        |   |   |   |   | 10 00    |
| St. Peter's Church, Washington, and Churches in Beaufort, |   |   |   |   | 10 00    |
| St. John's Church, Williamsborough,                       | - | - | - | - | 5 00     |
| Emmanuel Church, Warrenton,                               | - | - | - | - | 5 00     |
| Calvary Church, Wadesborough,                             | - | - | - | - | 5 00     |
| Christ's Church, Elizabeth City,                          | - | - | - | - | 10 00    |
| Grace Chapel, Pitt county, St. Matthew's Church, King-    |   |   |   |   |          |
| ston, Union Church, Waynesborough, and St. Paul's,        |   |   |   |   |          |
| Milton, together,                                         | - | - | - | - | 15 06    |
|                                                           |   |   |   |   | <hr/>    |
|                                                           |   |   |   |   | \$180 00 |
|                                                           |   |   |   |   | <hr/>    |

## Dr. FUND FOR THE EPISCOPATE.

1825.

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |         |         |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| May 31.   | To draft of Rt. Rev. J. S. Ravenscroft on J. W. Wright, treasurer, favour of S. Haywood, for half year salary to 1st June, 1825,                                                                                    | -       | 375 00  |
| Sept. 30. | To this sum paid by G. Hogg, esq. to Rt. Rev. J. S. Ravenscroft, in part of salary due 1st Dec. 1824, being contribution to this fund from Christ's Church, Raleigh, credited as cash in this account, per receipt, | - -     | 60 00   |
|           | To cash for 15 shares of the stock of the State Bank of N. C. bought of J. A. Cameron,                                                                                                                              |         | 1500 00 |
| Dec. 21.  | To draft of J. S. Ravenscroft on J. W. Wright favour of M. B. Wilkings, in part of salary due 1st Dec. 1825.                                                                                                        | - - - - | 53 87   |
| 1826.     | 26. To ditto on ditto favour of S. Haywood, in full of salary due 1st Dec. 1825,                                                                                                                                    | - -     | 281 13  |
| May 3.    | To cash paid to J. S. Ravenscroft by Rev. Mr. Pierson, in part of salary to 1st June, 1826, as per letter of J. S. Ravenscroft.                                                                                     | -       | 50 00   |
| 15.       | To balance on hand carried to credit of this fund in new account.                                                                                                                                                   | - - - - | 254 13  |

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\$2,554 13

*in account with J. W. WRIGHT, Treasurer.***Cr.**

1825.

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |        |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| April 16. | By balance on hand per statement rendered to the Convention of 1825, - - -                                                                                                                         | 673 53 |
| 30.       | By cash from Rev. Wm. M. Green, agent, for so much collected by him for this fund, received by hands of Mr. J. Lippett, -                                                                          | 651 00 |
|           | By cash from St. Paul's Church, Edenton, for contribution to this fund for the year 182 , received by Mr. J. Lippett, -                                                                            | 100 00 |
|           | By ditto from St. James' Church, Wilmington, for ditto, - - -                                                                                                                                      | 60 00  |
|           | By ditto from Zion Chapel, Beaufort, for ditto                                                                                                                                                     | 12 60  |
| May 18.   | By ditto from Rev. Wm. M. Green, agent, for so much collected by him, received by Mr. John Huske, - - -                                                                                            | 400 00 |
| July 18.  | By ditto from Rev. R. S. Mason, for contribution to this fund for the year 1826, from Christ's Church, Newbern, - - -                                                                              | 27 00  |
| Sept. 30. | By contribution to this fund from Christ's Church, Raleigh, for the year 1826, paid by G. Hogg, esq. to Rt. Rev. J. S. Ravenscroft, whose receipt is charged on debtor side of this account, - - - | 60 00  |
| Dec. 15.  | By cash from Rev. Wm. M. Green, for collections by him as agent, - - -                                                                                                                             | 87 00  |
|           | By ditto from ditto for contribution to this fund for the year 1826, from St. Mary's Chapel, Orange county, - - -                                                                                  | 13 00  |
| 28.       | By dividend of 4 per cent. on \$1,500, received from State Bank of N. C. - - -                                                                                                                     | 60 00  |
| 1826.     |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |        |
| April 11. | By cash from Rev. Wm. M. Green, for collections by him as agent, received with his letter of the 8th. - - -                                                                                        | 200 00 |
| 24.       | By ditto from ditto for ditto, with ditto of the 18th,                                                                                                                                             | 160 00 |
| May 3.    | By ditto paid to Rt. Rev. J. S. Ravenscroft, by Rev. Mr. Pierson, being contribution to this fund from St. Peter's Church, Washington, for the year 1826, - - -                                    | 50 00  |

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 \$2,554 13

Dr.

## CONTINGENT FUND,

|         |                                                                                                                                          |          |    |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----|
| 1825.   |                                                                                                                                          |          |    |
| April   | To cash paid by J. Lippett to Rev. R. S. Mason, for balance due to Pasteur & Watson for printing in 1824, per receipt of R. S. Mason,    | 39       | 64 |
| Aug. 6. | To ditto paid to E. J. Hale for printing 500 copies of Journals of 1825, per receipt, -                                                  | 53       | 00 |
| Nov. 2. | To draft of Rt. Rev. J. S. Ravenscroft on J. W. Wright, treasurer, favour of S. Haywood, in part of expenses of episcopal visitations, - | 81       | 49 |
|         |                                                                                                                                          | <hr/>    |    |
|         |                                                                                                                                          | <hr/>    |    |
|         |                                                                                                                                          | \$174 13 |    |
|         |                                                                                                                                          | <hr/>    |    |

Dr.

## MISSIONARY FUND,

|           |                                                                                 |          |    |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----|
| 1825.     |                                                                                 |          |    |
| Sept. 30. | To cash for 7 shares of the stock of the State Bank, bought of J. A. Cameron, - | 700      | 00 |
| May 15.   | To balance on hand carried to credit of this fund in new account, - - - - -     | 108      | 66 |
|           |                                                                                 | <hr/>    |    |
|           |                                                                                 | <hr/>    |    |
|           |                                                                                 | \$808 66 |    |
|           |                                                                                 | <hr/>    |    |

*in account with J. W. WRIGHT, Treasurer.*

Cr.

1825

|           |                                                                                            |         |       |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| April 30. | By cash by hands of Mr. J. Lippett, for contributions made to this fund at the convention, |         |       |
|           | by St. James Church, Wilmington,                                                           | -       | 30 00 |
|           | Christ's Church, Newbern,                                                                  | - -     | 30 00 |
|           | St. Paul's Church, Edenton,                                                                | - -     | 30 00 |
|           | Christ's Church, Raleigh,                                                                  | - -     | 15 00 |
|           | St. Jude's Chapel, Orange county,                                                          | -       | 8 00  |
|           | Grace Chapel, Pitt county,                                                                 | - -     | 5 00  |
|           | St. Matthew's Church, Kinston,                                                             | -       | 5 00  |
| 1826.     | St. John's Church, Williamsborough,                                                        |         | 2 00  |
| May 15.   | By balance carried to new account, being so much due to treasurer,                         | - - - - | 49 13 |

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 \$174 13
 

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*in account with J. W. WRIGHT, Treasurer.*

Cr.

1825.

|           |                                                                                               |               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| April 30. | By cash from Mr. J. Lippett, being collections made for this fund at Convention of 1825,      | 74 00         |
|           | By ditto from ditto, for contributions to this fund by sundry persons at Washington,          | - 150 75      |
| June 17.  | By ditto from C. T. Haigh, late treasurer of this fund, being balance remaining in his hands, | 555 91        |
| Dec. 28.  | By dividend of 4 per cent. on \$700 received from State Bank of N. C.                         | - - - - 28 00 |

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 \$808 66
 

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Fayetteville, May 15th, 1826.

J. W. WRIGHT, *Treasurer.*

